



Listening in the Lion's Den

Kylie McCormick
February 19, 2023

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will stop ignoring what God is clearly speaking to me.
- I will stop blowing off people who are trying to tell me the truth.
- I will come clean, get help and turn my life around.
- I will be obedient to God and stop ignoring him.
- I will trust that God is molding me through the suffering and pain.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Have you ever misheard a song lyric? As we consume music it is easy to mishear and sing the wrong lyrics, and our mistakes shape our understanding of the song. While some may be funny, other changes to song lyrics can change the song meaning, altering the purpose and the power of song.

What lyrics we hear shapes how we understand these songs, and it helps us understand a bigger truth, that who we listen to shapes who we are. In Daniel 6, King Darius listened to unwise council and made decisions that brought failure and stress to his life. Daniel, the foil character to Darius, listened to God. Listening to God didn't prevent Daniel from trouble, in fact he was thrown into a cave filled with hungry lions, but listening to God did allow Daniel to experience a miracle from God.

This week we are exploring the popular story of Daniel in the Lion's den to understand both how who we listen to shapes who we are, and how even when we mishear things God is working in our lives to rescue.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever misheard a song, or a story, or something that was important? Tell a story of a time in which you misheard something someone was trying to say?
2. What happens when we mishear something?
3. Chapter 6 of Daniel highlights the journey for three characters, the first being King Darius. Read together Daniel 6:3-9. What type of characteristics do you find out about Darius in these verses? Are you surprised by his actions since he is the King?
4. Darius listens to unwise council, and because of this he makes a mistake that lands Daniel in the lion's den. We read that Darius is distraught with this, he can't sleep or eat knowing Daniel is in peril. Have you ever taken on unwise council that has led you to stress? Why is it easy to be 'fooled' by voices around us that lead us away from what God wants for our lives?
5. Another character we see is the character of Daniel. Daniel hears the decree from Darius and yet chooses to listen to God, praying and worshipping God even though it could cost him his life. Would you have made the same decision? Why is it difficult to listen to God when the world is telling us something opposite?



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6. Daniel isn't the only character in the Bible who put God's voice above others. Job, in the book of Job, also had to tune out friends, family and his wife who were all telling him to turn from God when Job's life was difficult. Yet Job was steadfast, he never uttered a bad word or a curse against God. What does Job's and Daniel's story teach you about resilient faith?
7. Does the choice of Daniel and Job to listen to God above all else challenge anything in your faith?
8. The final character we observe in this story is the character of God. God is defined by a God who rescues. Read together Daniel 6: 26-27. What characteristic or attribute of God stands out to you?
9. What does it mean for you to interact with a God who rescues this week? What thing or area in your life needs rescuing?
10. Daniel 6 and the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den is a familiar story to many of us who grew up in the church. What is your main thought or takeaway as you reflect on the story this week?

